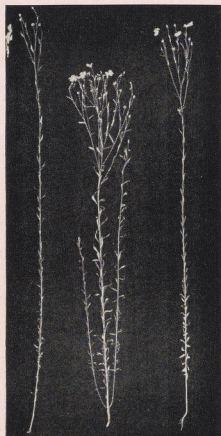


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FIBER FLAX



C&F 3730

SEED FLAX AND FIBER FLAX

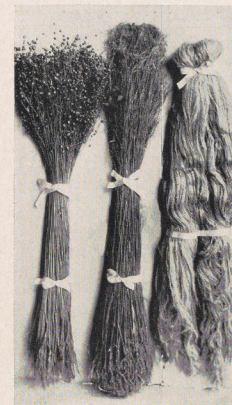
Seed flax in the center has a shorter, coarser stalk with branches and numerous seed bolls. Fiber flax has a tall stalk with few branches and seed bolls.



C&F 109

PULLING FLAX BY HAND

This laborious and expensive method of harvesting has been largely replaced by mechanical pulling machines.



C&F 3734

STEPS IN PROCESSING FIBER FLAX

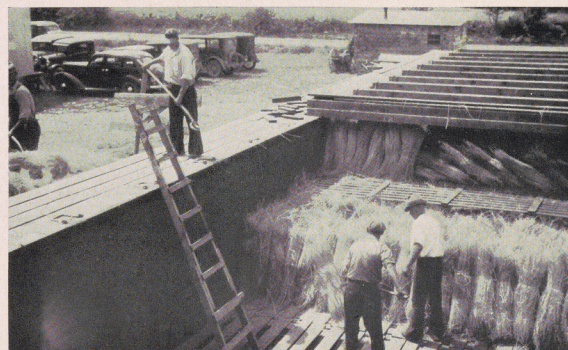
Flax straw with seed bolls; threshed straw after retting; scutched flax fiber.



C&F 37705

HARVESTING FLAX BY MACHINES

Tractor-drawn pulling machines are the modern way of harvesting. Hand pullers round off the field corners to hasten harvesting.



C&F 37701

TANKS USED IN RETTING FLAX

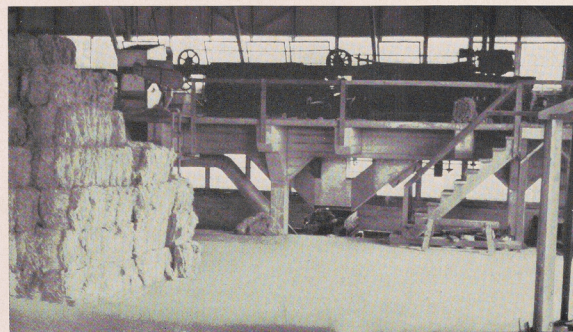
The straw is packed in tanks in bundles, and covered with water at approximately 80° F. for 5 to 8 days.



C&F 37721

DRYING RETTED STRAW IN WIGWAMS

After retting, the straw is dried before scutching. A storage shed and flax mill may be seen in the background.



C&F 37537

INTERIOR OF A SCUTCHING MILL

Efficient scutching machines have replaced the older hand-way of separating the fiber from the wood.

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